



STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
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AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage  
GOVERNOR

April 11, 2014

The Honorable Susan Collins  
United States Senate  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Michael Michaud  
United States House of Representatives  
1724 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Angus King  
United States Senate  
188 Russell Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chellie Pingree  
United States House of Representatives  
1318 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Collins and King and Representatives Michaud and Pingree,

I write to you in order to bring your attention to a problem that plagues our state. There are currently 120 unsolved homicides in Maine. I am sure you would agree that families deserve to have those who murdered their loved ones brought to justice. I believe that we as elected officials have a duty to provide for the public safety. For me, the duty is one that I see as primary.

For this reason, last autumn, I directed my staff to begin work on a bill that would create a cold case homicide squad. This squad would be exclusively dedicated to unsolved homicides. Ultimately the legislature took the effort from our hands by creating and pushing their own bill. My only directive to the legislature was that if the squad was to be created, then the legislature would have to provide adequate funding for it as the Department of Public Safety is currently severely under-funded and under-staffed. As this legislative session has progressed, I have anxiously watched to see whether the legislature will fund the cold case homicide squad and other initiatives that are needed to ensure public safety.

As the end of this session grows near, it appears the legislature is not as serious about solving Maine's cold case murders as I am. Rather than provide adequate funding to pay for the comparatively quite modest fiscal impact of creating the squad and other public safety initiatives, those who control the legislature will likely say that the homicide squad is a good idea, but is not enough of a priority that it deserves to get funded. It is a trick they often use. It is however one that I cannot tolerate. Maine families deserve better.

It is for this reason that I feel compelled to reach out to you, our elected representatives in Congress. If you can assist the Department of Public Safety in obtaining federal grants or other federal monies, then I believe that we can finally bring justice to Maine families who have lost loved ones. I urge you to please join my effort to get this cold case homicide squad off the ground.

Sincerely,

  
Paul R. LePage  
Governor



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